

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/030,315
Sughrue Ref: Q66240

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicant has cancelled claim 4 in view of the fact that Applicants have added the recitations of dependent claim 3 to claim 1, which is discussed below. Therefore the rejection of claim 4 is moot.

In addition, claim 6 has been amended to recite that each of the projections “does not include an undercut portion.” This feature is discussed at page 11, lines 15-23 of the original specification. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection in view of this amendment.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and §103

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 62-260664 (“JP ‘664”). Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (US 5,996,787) in view of JP ‘664 and JP 63-137748 (“JP ‘748”). Claims 5, 7, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of JP ‘664 and JP ‘748 as applied to claims 1-4, 6, and 8-11, and in further view JP 57-174320 (“JP ‘320”).

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Claims 1 and 9

As an initial matter, Applicant has added the recitations of claim 3 to independent claims 1 and 9, and also has amended these claims so that they recite further features of the locking portions.

According to the rejection, the Examiner looks to JP '748 in an attempt to show the recited "locking portions" that extend along side faces of the container and lid part. It appears to be the Examiner's position that JP '748 shows locking portions 10, 10', 11, 11' that extend along side faces of the container 2 and the lid part 3. JP '748 at Fig. 1 & 2.

However, with respect to amended claims 1 and 9, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references applied by the Examiner does not teach or suggest all of the recited features of these claims at least because JP '748 does not teach a lid and a container, *each* with a shape having a depression and a projection. Instead, JP '748's lid has projections 10, 10' and JP '748's container has depressions 11, 11'. JP '748 at Fig. 1 & 2. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion to modify a containing part, which is adapted to contain a plurality of objects that are overlapped and disposed in a raised position, so that the locking portions of the containing part are disposed in "areas near corners of the side faces."

The case of the present invention has some extent of a depth in order to dispose a plurality of cartridges in a raised position. Therefore, the case can be bent easier than the case of JP '748, which is configured to dispose an object in a traverse position.

Furthermore, one of the characteristics of the present invention is that the locking portions are disposed in areas near the corners, which normally cannot be bent with ease.

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Therefore, even though the case can be bent with comparative ease, the locking portions still perform their desired functions.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of independent claims 1 and 9.

Dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-13

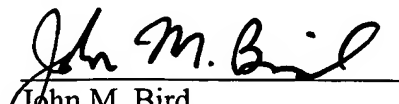
In addition, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of dependent claims 2-8 and 10-13 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1 and 9.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 28, 2004